

Message Text

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46

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IOE-00 EA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3542

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5574

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA KS AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN UN VOTE ON KOREAN THIRTIETH UNGA

1. WE AGREE THAT STRONG PROTEST SHOULD BE MADE TO GOVERN-
MENT OF AUSTRALIA ON THEIR VOTE ON HOSTILE RESOLUTION. THEIR
ABSTENTION, AFTER HAVING PREVIOUSLY STATED THEY WERE VOTING
AGAINST HOSTILE RESOLUTION, PRODUCED OUTRIGHT GASPS
OF SURPRISE AND INCREDULITY IN COMMITTEE AT THE TIME AND
IS CONSIDERED BY US TO HAVE BEEN THE PRINCIPAL
CAUSE OF THE UNRAVELLING OF OUR VOTE. IT WAS ALWAYS KNOWN TO
BE A TIGHT SQUEEZE, AND WE ENTERED THE VOTE WITH
OUR ESTIMATE BEING ONE OR TWO VOTES SHORT OF DEFEATING THE
HOSTILE. LOTS ARE DRAWN FOR EACH VOTE AND THIS VOTE
HAD STARTED WITH SAUDI ARABIA. THUS, AUSTRALIA VOTED FAIRLY
EARLY IN THE PROCEDURE. HER ABSTENTION MADE IT CLEAR THAT
WE COULD NOT WIN AN NUMEROUS OTHER DELEGATIONS THEN
TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS LEAD TO SHIFT THEIR VOTE AS WELL. AS RESULT
WE LOST BY THIRTEEN VOTES.

2. OUR COUNT SINCE THE VOTE SHOWS FOURTEEN SWITCHES
FROM CONFIRMED OR CONTINGENT PROMISES. WHEN VOTE
COUNTS ARE THIS CLOSE THERE IS INEVITABLE UNCERTAINTY AND
IMPRECISION, AND OBVIOUSLY AUSTRALIA WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE
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FOR EVERY SWITCH. SHE WAS THE MAIN CONTRIBUTOR, HOWEVER,

IN OUR VIEW, AND AS SUCH OUR DISPLEASURE OUGHT TO BE
MADE STRONGLY CLEAR TO PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM.

3. FYI AUSTRALIAN MISSION HERE WAS NOTICEABLY DISCOMFITED
AND EMBARRASSED. THEY HAD PLAYED THE GAME WITH US ALL
THE WAY, AND WE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT WANT ANY PROTEST TO
GOA TO BACKFIRE ON THEIR REPS HERE.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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